

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS
MAY 8, 2013
BEDFORD TOWN HALL**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman John Linz called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the second floor conference room.

ROLL CALL: Members Present: Chairman John Linz, Clerk Ron Cordes, member Bruce Murphy, and Associate Assessor Bruce Morgan.

GUESTS: None

MINUTES: Minutes from the open meeting of 4/24/2013 were reviewed. Bruce Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ron Cordes. The minutes were approved as written by all Board members.

BUSINESS: 1. John Linz brought up the topic of the Open Meeting Law related to real estate abatements. Ron Cordes had information from the Department of Revenue Legal Services department suggesting that all abatement discussions take place in Executive Session. Mr. Linz closed the discussion by noting that further investigation into this topic should be done in the next few months so that any changes to current procedures can be decided in advance of the FY14 abatement period.

2. Bruce Morgan updated the Board on the designated Open Space discount parcels, reporting that the Town Clerk cannot find any vote by the Board of Selectmen to adopt it. Mr. Morgan related information from the Department of Revenue stating that criteria for designation are up to the Board of Assessors. The Board decided to present the topic to the Board of Selectmen by late August. Consideration of the few buildable parcels receiving the Open Space discount will be the topic, with all other parcels, which are landlocked or otherwise unbuildable, to be changed to land use code 132 by department staff for FY14.

3. Bruce Morgan spoke with Planning Director Glenn Garber regarding Bruce Murphy's offer to make a presentation to the Planning Board regarding some of the valuation functions of the Board and Mr. Murphy will be scheduled to do so sometime in July.

4. Ron Cordes presented data regarding the possibility of the Town adopting the residential exemption as a tool to help owners of properties valued below the median. The Board also discussed the possibility of increasing the amount of existing exemptions and/or doing a match of the state circuit breaker program.

SIGNATURES: 4. Signatures were completed as required.

5. Being no other business, Ron Cordes made a motion to adjourn the Open Meeting, seconded by Bruce Murphy. There was no discussion on the motion and all members present voted affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Bruce Morgan, Associate Assessor

Approved by the BOA May 22, 2013

Ronald Cordes, Clerk